



CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site Removal Action

Harris County
Houston, Texas

February, 2015

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Response Action Update
- Background information
- Potential threats to public health and welfare
- For more information

Response Action Update

The Environmental Protection Agency, TCEQ, and the City of Houston, continue to work closely to address the CES Environmental Services Site (Site) issues. The EPA's response actions on the Site began in late August 2014.

As of February 18, 2015, the EPA completed the following actions:

- Quantities of materials that have been removed from the Site to date: The EPA has removed 367,000 gallons of liquids, 345 cubic yards of material, and 14,600 gallons for solidification from the Site and disposed of them in the proper manner at Federally Approved Facilities.
- Vacuum Boxes: All original vacuum boxes have been removed from the Site. **COMPLETED**
- Roll off Boxes: All original roll off boxes removed from the Site. **COMPLETED**
- Frac Tanks: Waste removed and disposed of from 8 of 12 tanks, 3 were originally empty and waste remains in 1. The waste in that tank will be disposed in early March. Eight empty frac tanks will remain on Site for anticipated waste clean-up storage.
- Above ground Storage Tanks (AST's): Liquids & sludge removed from 18 of the 20 steel AST's. Two steel tanks are awaiting disposal facility acceptance and sludge removal. The 3 poly tanks will be addressed with the totes.
- Totes/drums/misc. containers: Empty containers have been segregated for cleaning. Full or partially full containers have been segregated into

waste steams to be bulked, and properly containerized for disposal.

- Loading bays main warehouse: The bays have been cleared of waste and debris.

COMPLETED

- Cleaning Bay (truck cleaning area): The bays have been cleaned and sludge removed from gutters leading to the sump. This area will be used for cleaning when needed in the future.
- Tanker Trailers: Two of 2 disposed. **COMPLETED**
- Waste water treatment tanks (WWTT): Two are empty, 2 contain sludge only, and we have removed liquids from 12. Four remaining with liquids will be addressed with the Totes
- Removal of Contaminated Sediments/Soils: General cleaning of contaminated areas is ongoing. Slit barriers and oil absorbent booms are in place to reduce any potential residential contamination.
- Storm water management: This activity continues as rainfall occurs.
- Waste Piles (southern portion of facility)/Lab Chemicals/Bulk process chemicals: Have all been removed and disposed. **COMPLETED**

EPA Cleanup Costs (Contractor) as of 2/6/15:
\$ 1,038,994 / \$2,000,000

Background Information

CES Environmental Services Inc. is a former chemical recycling facility located at 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. Other contiguous properties associated with the Site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial properties.

CES Environmental Services filed for bankruptcy in 2010. The property is part of the CES Bankruptcy Estate, which is being managed by a Trustee appointed by the bankruptcy court. The Trustee's job is to liquidate assets of the Estate for the benefit of the creditors.

There are numerous chemical containers located on Site consisting of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, 2 roll-off

boxes, 12 frac tanks, 2 tanker trailers, 22 above ground storage tanks (ASTs), 19 wastewater treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums and smaller containers. These containers contain materials including acids, corrosives, flammables, and specific hazardous wastes including benzene, cresol (phenols), lead, and chromium. These containers have not been actively managed since August 2010.

Two known significant spill incidents occurred in March and July of 2014. The March incident was the result of the theft of on-site equipment including 2 tanker trailers and 7 roll-off boxes. The materials were dumped to the ground, into on-site containment structures, and the equipment was stolen. The July incident is believed to be the result of an intentional opening of a valve, which drained oil and oily water from a tanker trailer used for oil-water separation. Rainfall transported spilled material off site into the residential area south of the facility along Kingsbury Street.

The following entities participated in various spill responses: CES Estate, City of Houston, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the EPA.

Although lacking adequate funding, the Trustee continues to address waste issues at the Site in coordination with TCEQ and the EPA. Since September 2014, the bulk of the waste issues on the property were addressed by the EPA

Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare

The major threat to public health and welfare are the numerous chemical containers located on the Site. The chemical odors emanating from the Site are the result of compromised chemical containers containing cresol/phenolic compounds and historic spillage. The odors and potential threats will continue until all waste materials are removed from the Site and properly disposed.

Regulatory agencies recognize that chemical spills occurred on the Site and likely caused both on and off-site contamination. The contamination will require further investigation. Step one in this process is the conduction of a Preliminary Assessment, which was initiated by TCEQ.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the CES Environmental Services Removal Action and/future action, please contact:

Gary Moore, EPA On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 6
Phone: 214.665.6609 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)
moore.gary@epa.gov

Bill Little, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 6
Phone: 214.665.8131 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)
little.bill@epa.gov

Terry Andrews, TCEQ Project Manager

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Phone: 713.767.3560
terry.andrews@tceq.texas.gov

*All inquiries from the news media should be directed to:
EPA Region 6 Press Office*

Phone: 214.665.2200

*Additional information can be found on the Internet at
<http://www.epa.gov/region6>*

